

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9, and ADD new claims 12-14, in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A method for delivering messages, the method comprising: accepting information at a server regarding an article to be delivered from a usersender to a receiver;

accepting at said server an electronic message ~~containing a personal message~~ addressed from the usersender ~~of the article~~ to the receiver of the article by associating the electronic message with said article;

updating said electronic message associated with said article in response to receiving updating information from the user before receiving notification that physical delivery of said article is completed; and

sending from said server said electronic message associated with said article to thea receiver of said article in response to a time of receiving the notification that physical delivery of said article is completed.

2. (currently amended) A method for delivering messages, the method comprising: accepting information at a server regarding an article to be delivered from a usersender to a receiver;

accepting at said server an electronic message ~~containing a personal message~~ addressed from the usersender ~~of the article~~ to the receiver of the article by associating the electronic message with said article; and

sending from said server said electronic message associated with said article to a terminal of a deliverer who delivers said article ~~accepting information at the terminal of the deliverer regarding said article to be delivered and said electronic message associated with said article from said server;~~

sending from said terminal of the deliverer said electronic message associated with said article to thea receiver of said article in response to a time of accepting input which indicates

that physical delivery of said article is completed.

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A computer readable medium including a program executed on a computer for delivering messages, the program comprising:

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for accepting information regarding an article to be delivered from a usersender to a receiver;

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for accepting an electronic message ~~containing a personal message addressed from the usersender of the article~~ to the receiver of the article by associating the electronic message with said article;

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for updating said electronic message associated with said article in response to receiving updating information from the user before receiving notification that physical delivery of said article is completed; and

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for sending the electronic message associated with said article to ~~the~~ a receiver of the article in response to ~~a time of~~ receiving the notification that physical delivery of said article is completed.

6. (currently amended) A computer readable medium including a program executed on a computer for delivering messages, the program comprising:

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for accepting information regarding an article to be delivered from a usersender to a receiver;

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for accepting an electronic message ~~containing a personal message addressed from the usersender of the article~~ to the receiver of the article by associating the electronic message with said article; and

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for sending said electronic message associated with said article to a terminal of a deliverer for sending said electronic message to ~~the~~ a receiver of said article in response to ~~a time of~~ completing physical delivery of said article.

7. (currently amended) A computer readable medium including a program executed on a computer for delivering messages, the program comprising:

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for accepting information regarding an article to be delivered from a usersender to a receiver₁ and an electronic message ~~containing a personal message addressed from the usersender of the article to the receiver of the article₁~~ associated with the article from a server; and

a section for causing the computer to function as a unit for sending said electronic message associated with said article to ~~the~~a receiver of the article in response to~~a time of~~ accepting input which indicates that physical delivery of said article is completed.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A unit for delivering messages, the unit comprising:

a section for accepting information regarding an article to be delivered from a usersender to a receiver₁ and an electronic message ~~containing a personal message addressed from the usersender of the article to the receiver of the article₁~~ associated with the article from a server; and

a section for sending said electronic message associated with said article to ~~the~~a receiver of said article in response to~~a time of~~ accepting input which indicates that physical delivery of said article is completed.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (new) A method of delivering a message, the method comprising:

accepting information at a server regarding an item to be delivered from a user to a receiver;

accepting at the server an electronic message from the user to the receiver, and associating the electronic message with the item;

sending from the server the electronic message associated with the item to the receiver of the item in response to physical delivery of the item to the receiver being completed.

13. (new) A method of delivering a message, the method comprising:

accepting information at a server regarding an item to be delivered to a receiver;

accepting at the server an electronic message from a user to the receiver before physical

delivery of the item to the receiver; and

sending the electronic message from the server to the receiver in response to the physical delivery to the receiver being completed.

14. (new) The method according to claim 13, further comprising modifying the electronic message before the physical delivery in response to a request from the user to modify the electronic message.